

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 18 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities: "is" should be "are" in claims 6 and 9 at lines 2 and 13 respectively; and "are" should be "is" in claim 18, line 2

The claims have been amended, as needed, to overcome this objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 3 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 3 and 19 are concurrently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof, rendering any rejection made thereto moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,842,708 to Kadokura et al. in view of U.S. 4,931,169 to Scherer et al. and U.S. 4,784,739 to Kadokura et al.

Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice, rendering any rejection applied thereto moot.

Claim 4 is amended to incorporate therein the Office indicated allowable subject matter of claim 6. Claim 6 is canceled to prevent redundancy. By so amending, claim 4 and all claims dependent thereon are believed to be placed in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claim 19 is canceled without prejudice, rendering the double patenting concern moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claim 1 and indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-7, 10, 12 and 14-18 are noted with appreciation.

New Claims

New claims 20-21 are added herein by amendment. These claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-19, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

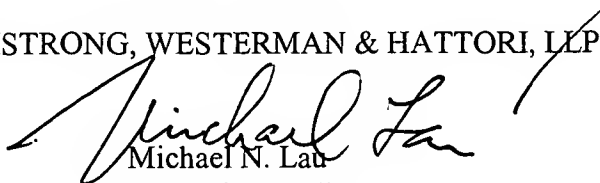
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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